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Government
Publication

Selected Voluntary Organizations in the United Kingdom

by Mrs. Jules Laine

(Rose Laine)

Dealing with the following organizations:

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION AND BRIGADE

WAR ORGANIZATION OF BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY
AND ORDER OF ST JOHN

SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

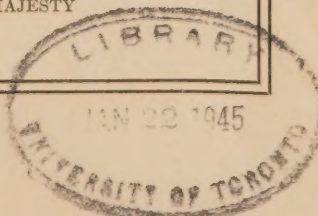
CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY OVERSEAS

Issued by

The Department of National War Services



OTTAWA
EDMOND CLOUTIER
PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
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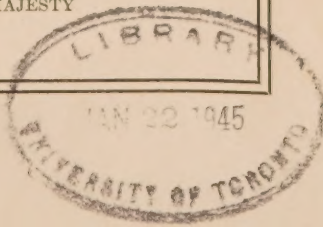
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1944



Selected Voluntary Organizations
in the United Kingdom

by Mrs. Juliet Leake

Working with the voluntary organizations

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

J. C. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION AND BRIGADE

WAR ORPHANS' SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND
AND ORDER OF ST. JOHN

SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

CHAMBERLAIN RED CROSS SOCIETY OVERSEAS

The Department of Overseas War Services



Printed by the
Government Printer
London

Major-General The Honourable L. R. LAFLECHE, D.S.O.,
Minister of National War Services,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit herewith a report arising out of my visit to the United Kingdom on the voluntary organizations selected by you for consideration. In accordance with your instructions, this survey is a factual account, containing no recommendations, nor are comparisons made, and in particular, this report is directed to the work of the British Red Cross, the St. John Ambulance, the Joint War Organization, the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, and the Canadian Red Cross Society Overseas. But it is desired to emphasize the important point of the value of women's voluntary effort in the United Kingdom and therefore additional information relating to that immense range of endeavour is included.

Any report that I might make would be incomplete without an expression of the deep sense of appreciation for the unfailing kindness shown me everywhere by the various voluntary organizations in Britain. It was a great pleasure to meet and talk with their leaders and I shall always be grateful to them for their courtesy and kindness in permitting me to view a parade of activity and for providing me with facilities for obtaining every possible information.

I also wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Brendan Bracken, Minister of War Information, who made it possible for me to visit so many wartime points of interest, and special thanks are due to Mr. Fenwick of the Ministry of Labour whose advice on Britain's Labour Laws was of particular value in the framing of my report.

I take this opportunity of expressing at the same time my gratitude to you for the privilege of visiting the United Kingdom for the purpose of this report.

Respectfully yours,

ROSE LAINE

TORONTO
May-1944

PREFACE

In view of the splendid contribution in so many forms which the women of the Dominion have made in aid of the successful prosecution of the war, the Department of National War Services arranged that four Canadian women—who were prepared to accept the risks and to whom accordingly the Department is very grateful—should proceed to the United Kingdom, there to observe the voluntary work being performed by the women of Britain.

Selection was made of three Canadian voluntary workers—Mrs. Gordon Konantz of Winnipeg and Miss Agathe Dore of Montreal, both of whom had been closely associated with women's voluntary services; Mrs. Jules Laine of Toronto, a prominent worker with the Canadian Red Cross Society; and, for departmental purposes, Miss Helen Doherty, a member of the staff of the Department of National War Services.

The information they were able to secure is now being made available in this form to the women of Canada, in the hope that it will be a further inspiration to their fellow workers who have so valiantly carried on.

PREFACE

In view of the splendid contribution in so many forms which the women of the Dominion have made in aid of the successful prosecution of the war, the Department of National War Services arranged that four Canadian women—women were proposed to group the risks and to whom accordingly the Department is very grateful—should present to the United Kingdom their views on the voluntary work being performed by the women of Britain.

Selection was made of three Canadian voluntary workers—Mrs. Arthur Roberts of Winnipeg and Miss Arthur Low of Toronto. The fourth was a woman who had been in the women's auxiliary service in the United Kingdom; and for departmental purposes was designated as a member of the staff of the Dominion of Wales and Wales. The interest in this form to the women of Canada, in the form that it will be a further impetus to their fellow workers who have so valiantly served on.

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Selected Voluntary Organizations in the United Kingdom

INTRODUCTION

To give anything like an adequate description of the work undertaken by the women of the United Kingdom would fill volumes and read like an encyclopaedia. Women's activities have branched out in every direction for their country's benefit and have been both a revelation and an object lesson. It is safe to say that the best progress in women's work has been made in the British Isles and no thoughtful person can doubt the importance and value of women's work since the war began.

The response made by the women of Britain to the great and increasing demands on their energies has not gone unnoticed. Women's work has gone far beyond all expectation and has earned the respect and the sincere gratitude of their government and its ministers have declared publicly how splendid they have been. In Britain, women's help was both important and pressing, and women willingly consented to the idea of National Service and have been assisted by it to find where their duty lies. In fact, the outstanding feature which the women of Britain have in common is the dominating desire to serve their country in any capacity, and they are doing anything that needs to be done.

What women are doing in this war has long ceased to be news and there are few fields of endeavour in Britain where women are not conspicuous by their numbers. No work is too hard or too dangerous, or even too unimportant. For the first time in its history, Britain conscripts women for service in the Navy, Army and Air Force. Britain's women soldiers and sailors are driving trucks, repairing motor vehicles, packing parachutes, handling barrage balloons, manning harbour craft, forecasting weather, sending and receiving radio messages, and serving as photographers in aerial reconnaissance. Women man the anti-aircraft units—the normal unit is composed of 229 women and 198 men—they are being killed in action alongside the men. Women till the ground and it is to the credit of the women in Britain's Land Army that the home production of food has more than doubled since the outbreak of war. In the factories women are performing every conceivable task and one-third of the total output of the factories is credited to the women in industry. Women are performing as great a national service as the men at the fighting fronts.

Volunteer effort is an essential element in the wartime life of the country and carries with it a great responsibility, the responsibility of doing one's best voluntarily. Civilian life in wartime Britain is a dull and humdrum business, composed chiefly of working long hours, doing tedious tasks, doing without. The persistence and determination on the part of the women to carry on their home life in the face of many difficulties and the everpresent danger is remarkable. They have accepted the daily routine of rationing and queuing, of black-out and transportation difficulties. They have sacrificed fashion to utility, and their ingenuity diversifies a repetitious diet. They guard health and prevent waste; they are doggedly fighting fatigue and monotony.

But the women of Britain are in an enviable position with regard to their fighting men for after the war when their men return, there will be no sharp division between civilian and soldier, no disunity. Both will have known and experienced the dangers and deprivations of war.

Any survey of the contribution that women are making to the war effort must of necessity be very extensive in a country such as Britain where the civilian man-power is the most highly mobilized in the world, and where the use of women-power has been one of the unique features of the United Kingdom's war effort. Recently published statistics show that of an effective population of 33,000,000 (16,000,000 men and 17,000,000 women), 15,000,000 men and 7,000,000 women are engaged in full-time employment; while the remaining 10,000,000 women are occupied in necessary household duties such as taking care of over 9,000,000 children under fourteen years of age. Of these latter, however, approximately 700,000 are voluntarily engaged in part-time employment in addition to their home duties. In engineering and allied industries, women account for 35 per cent of the employees and in chemical and explosives, they make up 52 per cent of the persons employed—in fact, the tentacles of women's effort stretch into every field of endeavour. This, of course, is not unexpected when regard is had to the frontline position that the United Kingdom has held since the commencement of hostilities.

This survey is confined to the voluntary contribution by women in the United Kingdom to the war effort. Prior to directing attention to the various phases of that excellent feature of the devotion to duty of the women of the United Kingdom, it is perhaps as well to consider the means whereby in a country in which the man-power is so highly mobilized, voluntary effort may still continue.

The Minister of Labour and National Service has decided what type of war work women of different ages may choose. The National Service Acts and Control of Employment Orders which now provide that women between the ages of 18 and 50 inclusive may be directed by the Government to specific employment are the keystone of the whole structure of the war effort in the United Kingdom. The exemptions to such compulsory employment are, broadly speaking, married women with children under 14 years of age living with them, those not physically fit, and women with household responsibilities. The latter, however, may be directed to part-time employment. It follows, therefore, that apart from paid employees in the voluntary services for whom labour-permits are required, the work of the voluntary services is carried on by women who are not subject to be called under the National Service Acts and Control of Employment Orders, and by those women who are permitted by the Ministry of Labour to remain in a voluntary capacity because of the vital character of the work they are doing. This does not, of course, include voluntary part-time contribution to canteen services, A.R.P. and similar organizations given in such a wholehearted measure by those women who are already performing fulltime National Service of one type or another.

Figures which may be established in these voluntary services include about 1,000,000 women in W.V.S.; 500,000 housewives known to have received evacuees; 300,000 men and women who work with the Joint War Organization of the British Red Cross and St. John either as volunteers, or paid by voluntary funds; over 120,000 women who work as volunteers, in canteens; about 200,000 persons enrolled as "Salvage Stewards"; about 7,000 persons (mostly women) who serve in Citizens' Advice Bureaux; several thousands of volunteer men and women who give their time to youth services; and voluntary collectors who gather twelve million pennies every week for the Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund. It has been calculated by the Minister of Labour and National Service that well over 2,000,000 people give voluntary service to the nation.

It should be pointed out that owing to the limited time at the disposal of the writer, this survey must of necessity be directed only to certain phases of the women's war effort. No attempt is, therefore, being made to present a comprehensive survey of the voluntary services performed by women. No mention, for example, is made of those thousands of women who not only carry

on their war jobs by day, but do service as ambulance workers, air-raid wardens and fire guards after working hours, nor of the hundreds of thousands of women who are giving valuable service by billeting soldiers, war workers and evacuated children.

In accordance with instructions, this report is in the main directed to the work of the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance organizations and the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airman's Families Association with such digressions as may be necessary from time to time to emphasize any particular phase of women's contribution or to more properly appreciate the value and full significance of voluntary effort in the United Kingdom.

THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

History

The Red Cross in Great Britain began its activities at the opening of the Franco-German War. In that year, 1870, the "National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War" was founded upon the rules laid down by the Geneva Convention. Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, was the Patron, ably supported by H.R.H. Princess Christian and Miss Florence Nightingale, and the newly-formed Society adopted the Red Cross badge and Flag.

Though the Society had to improvise a staff and create an organization, the work done was admirable, extending to both belligerents. At the conclusion of the war, the Society was employing nearly two hundred surgeons, nurses and agents.

Subsequent to the Franco-German War, the National Aid Society rendered help on many foreign battlefields, as well as in several small wars and expeditions in which British troops were engaged.

The year 1905 marks the reconstruction of the "British Red Cross Society" on its present basis, when it was decided to establish one comprehensive organization for the whole Empire.

In 1908, a notable step in the Red Cross movement in Great Britain was the granting of a Charter to the Society stating "that the primary object of such a Society was to furnish aid to the sick and wounded in time of war".

The passing of the "Territorial and Reserve Forces Act" had a very important bearing on the Society's future, for the War Office in 1909 issued a "scheme for the organization of voluntary aid in England and Wales", with the object of filling certain gaps in the medical service of the Territorial Force in the event of war in the home territory. The scheme suggested that the local branches of the British Red Cross Society would be a fitting medium for its activities. Detachments of men and of women respectively were to be formed in each county. They were to be trained in first aid, the women also in home nursing. Such then was the origin of the movement which, within a few years, made the term "V.A.D." a household word of honourable significance.

Objects

In Time of Peace.—The primary objects of the Red Cross in peace time are the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the relief of suffering throughout the world. The British Red Cross Society is one of over 60 national organizations, all of which are in close association with the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva. The Society, therefore, is concerned in the organization of the Red Cross movement throughout the Empire, and will promote, by every means in its power, an interest in Red Cross work, and familiarity with its details.

In Time of War.—Under wartime conditions, it is, *prima facie*, the duty of the Government to provide for the removal of the wounded from the field of battle to hospital, to treat them, and to do all that is necessary to enable them to return to duty of civil life as soon as possible. In a small war abroad, it might very well be that all this could be undertaken by the Army Medical Service, but, in a great war, the peace-time resources of the Army Medical Services are quite insufficient for the work which falls on it. Not only must the Army draw largely on the civil population for additional doctors, nurses, and for ambulance men, etc., but it requires very extensive extra hospital accommodation. Thus the Army Medical Service finds itself, at short notice, obliged to organize on a scale which makes efficient assistance a necessity. The Red Cross provides such assistance.

A generous supply to the sick and wounded of comforts in the nature of what may be called luxuries, is a most important branch of all Red Cross work. The usefulness of the Red Cross is not restricted by the limits of any constituted scheme, or hampered by any consideration, save that it must be reasonably applied to the welfare of those who are sick, wounded or helpless.

Experience of the past has shown that when war is imminent, the public come forward with the utmost generosity with offers of assistance; these offers are apt to be overwhelming in number and embarrassing in kind. The government has accorded its official recognition to the British Red Cross Society, as the organization responsible for the Red Cross movement throughout the Empire, and has agreed that, in time of war, all voluntary offers of assistance in aid of the sick and wounded made in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on the outbreak of war, or during the progress of hostilities, other than those coming from the Order of St. John and St. Andrew's Ambulance Association, for the provision of personnel, must be submitted, in the first instance to the British Red Cross Society, who will communicate them to the Army Council if they are likely to be of practical value.

The Secretary of State for War issued in 1909 a scheme for Voluntary Aid Detachments. This scheme was designed to supplement the Territorial Medical Service in the event of war in the home territory only. A new scheme was promulgated in 1932, which was designed to supplement the Medical Service of the Naval, Military and Air Forces of the Crown in any part of the world on general mobilization. In addition, the personnel of the Voluntary Aid Detachments could be invited to volunteer for service in the event of mobilization, or partial mobilization, of the regular Forces of the Crown, without the embodiment of the Territorial Army. The detachments were to be provided by the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the British Red Cross Society and the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association.

Activities Undertaken by the British Red Cross

Rheumatism Clinics.—A work of great importance undertaken by the British Red Cross Society is the campaign against rheumatism. Investigation during recent years has shown that nearly one-sixth of industrial invalidity in Britain is due to rheumatic disease, with consequent very serious loss to the workers and to industry at large.

In 1927, the Approved Societies, the Trade Unions and the British Committee on Rheumatism jointly requested the British Red Cross Society to build and equip a London clinic for the investigation and treatment of chronic rheumatism. The Society's first clinic was opened in February, 1930.

There are now three clinics in operation in London, entirely financed by the Society with a part-time staff of Red Cross members in addition to the trained staff. These clinics are open to men and women suffering from rheumatic conditions who are able and willing to pay a reasonable fee for treatment.

Treatments are given by appointment and at times most suitable to the patient. The fees are fixed in each case by the Almoner, the maximum fee for consultation set at 10/6, and 8/6 for treatment.

The clinics are fully equipped to provide electrotherapy and hydrotherapy treatment, massage, ultra-violet, infra-red, manipulative treatment, X-ray and other forms of physical treatment useful in the treatment of rheumatism. Tests and observations are recorded for the use of the research branch.

Medical Loan Depots.—Equipped and staffed by members of the Red Cross these depots provide on loan sick-room requisites for homes where there is need. Wheel chairs, crutches and surgical appliances are in many instances also provided. A small charge is usually made.

Rest Homes.—These have been established by the local authorities for old people who have been evacuated from their homes or who have been bombed out. These hostels are intended for those who although not suffering from any acute illness, nevertheless need special attention and cannot be properly retained in a hostel organized for able-bodied persons. The Ministry of Health invited the assistance of the Society's personnel in the staffing of these homes.

School Care Committee Work.—This is undertaken by members of the Red Cross in conjunction with the county schools, and requires the attendance of Red Cross members at the medical examination of the children in the schools. All cases are followed up to see that treatment is given as advised by the doctor. Red Cross members also assist in centres where the minor ailments of school children are treated.

Escorts.—These are provided for Service patients proceeding on leave from hospital or who are being sent from one hospital to another. Red Cross members also act as escorts to civilian patients who are evacuated from the London hospitals to the outlying hospitals in the country.

Voluntary Aid Detachments.—Members of the Red Cross Society are trained for the V.A.D. Nursing Service and have been posted to Naval, Military and Air Force Hospitals.

Civil Nursing Reserve.—Over 29,906 Red Cross members are working with the nursing auxiliaries of the civil nursing reserve and are employed in hospitals, first-aid posts, rest centres, medical-aid posts and shelters. This number is exclusive of the members who are serving in the 234 hospitals of the Joint War Organization.

Nursing Aid Service.—A scheme recently put into operation provides the Ministry of Health with nursing members of the Red Cross who, in case of emergency, undertake to look after those who are ill at home and who have no one to care for them.

Service Clubs.—Members of the Red Cross are on duty in the first-aid rooms of the canteens and service clubs.

Civil Defence.—Trained members of the Red Cross are available to the local civil authorities for the staffing of first-aid posts, shelters, rest centres and auxiliary ambulance services.

Lectures.—These are given for the public and for prospective members of the Red Cross Society in first-aid, home nursing, A.R.P. instruction, child welfare, hygiene, cooking and social service.

Ambulance Drivers.—Drivers are supplied by the Red Cross and are attached to the various commands under the Joint War Organization.

Dispensaries.—During the hop-picking season in Kent dispensaries are opened for the many thousands of hoppers who come, mostly from the East End of London, for the harvesting. Each dispensary is staffed by V.A.D. members working under a trained nurse.

Blood Transfusion Service.—Members of the Red Cross are helping in the National Blood Transfusion Service by staffing depots, blood collection units, and in the role of donors.

In addition, members and officers are supplied for work in the Joint War Organizations' Departments, such as Foreign Relations, Prisoners of War, etc., and also as liaison officers for dealing with the welfare of the service patients in hospitals. A number of these have been sent overseas to undertake similar work in the Middle East, North Africa, Italy and Sicily.

Youth and Junior Departments

The British Red Cross Society Organization for young people is divided into two branches: *Youth Detachments* for boys and girls from 15 to 20 years of age; and the *Junior Red Cross* consisting of cadet units for boys and girls from 12 to 16 years of age, and links for children from six years of age to school-leaving age.

Youth Detachments are usually formed separately for boys and girls, but mixed ones are permitted. The detachments ordinarily consist of boys and girls not attached to any other organization, but they may be formed within other organizations such as clubs and schools. Members of the detachments wear the Red Cross uniform. The majority of members join with the idea of preparing themselves for national service and the Red Cross courses are designed with this purpose in mind. Members are given an opportunity to be of service to their country and to each other. The activities of the youth detachments are of an adult character, and are planned to promote education in health matters and to inspire the spirit of services through the ideals of the International Red Cross.

The Junior Red Cross is an integral part of the International Red Cross Society in 50 countries throughout the world. In Great Britain, it exists mainly as a voluntary movement in schools but, by means of its "link" system, it is also incorporated in other juvenile organizations. It co-operates with teachers and others in the training of boys and girls in those matters in which the Red Cross is particularly concerned.

The Society's courses of first-aid, home nursing, hygiene, infant and child welfare, cooking, A.R.P., encourages the formation of healthful habits of living and develops the child's sense of social responsibility. The training courses, service and recreational activities are specially and suitably adapted to the age-group.

Members of the Youth Detachments and the Junior Red Cross are given opportunities to serve in the children's nurseries and in civil defence, and to do part-time service in the hospitals.

As the Red Cross is non-sectarian, the source of inspiration for all the activities is drawn from the history and high tradition of the Red Cross itself. The young members of the Red Cross are growing up grounded in its ideals of service.

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE

History

The Order of St. John of Jerusalem is one of the oldest orders of chivalry with a history dating back to the time of the Crusades. From 1858, the Order of St. John became a purely national one with a distinct policy of its own. In 1877, a Foundation of the Order of "The St. John Ambulance Association" was formed mainly for the purpose of giving instruction in "first-aid" and "home nursing" and in consideration of its valuable work, a charter was granted to it by Queen Victoria in that year.

It was soon found that those who received this instruction desired to be banded together to work in unison, and to be given an opportunity to put into practice what they had learned. For this purpose, the "St. John Ambulance Brigade" was formed in 1887 and since then has been an essential part of the national life of the United Kingdom and the Dominions overseas.

Purpose

The Brigade was created as a civilian organization to meet ambulance and first-aid needs of the civil population and to provide reserves for the Navy and the Army. The Brigade is recognized by the Government and its services and welcomed by all local authorities and by the police. Membership is open to men holding a first-aid certificate and women holding first-aid and home nursing certificates of the Association (or other approved organization) who are willing to serve voluntarily, in accordance with the traditions of the Order, in ambulance divisions (for men) and nursing divisions (for women). The divisions are under the authority of qualified warrant officers and N.C.O.'s. All members must attend regular practices, drills, inspections and re-examinations to keep efficient and qualified for service.

Activities

In Time of Peace

First-Aid and Ambulance Service.—The Brigade offers its services for first-aid work and ambulance service to the public. This entails the provision of Brigade personnel and equipment at public processions and meetings, sporting and athletic events, displays and pageants, holiday crowds at the seaside and elsewhere, theatres, concert halls and cinemas, roadside first-aid huts, and ambulance depots and first-aid posts on the railways, in mines, in factories and business premises.

In 1938, the last full record of a peacetime year, 752,748 cases of accident and sudden illness were cared for, and on the highways 24,955 road accident cases received first-aid treatment.

In addition to taking part in the above activities together with the ambulance men, the nursing divisions members also give voluntary service in hospitals, clinics, welfare centres; assist district nurses; and provide emergency nursing help in homes throughout the country.

Medical Comforts Depots.—These are equipped and staffed by ambulance and nursing divisions, and provide on loan at the request of the doctor or district nurse, sickroom necessities for homes where there is need. The Association also maintains Medical Comforts Depots.

Motor Ambulance Service.—In the provinces, motor ambulances maintained by local branches of the Association or units of the Brigade and, staffed by trained ambulance personnel, are available for the transport of the sick and injured.

In Time of War

In time of war, these services are further extended.

Naval and Military Reserves.—The Brigade works in close conjunction with the Navy and Army by having a number of trained men reservists ready to transfer to the Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve and to be mobilized through the Military Hospital Reserves immediately war is declared.

Voluntary Aid Detachments.—Members of the nursing divisions are trained in peacetime for the V.A.D. nursing service and since 1939 over 1,150 St. John V.A.D. members have been posted to Naval, Military and Air Force hospitals.

A.R.P. Instruction.—In 1926, the Brigade took the lead in anti-gas precautions instruction and published a book on the subject. When war broke out in 1939, over 6,000 officers and other ranks had been trained as instructors and at the request of H.M. Government, the Brigade was able to render valuable service in the instruction of the public in A.R.P. measures.

Civil Defence.—The Brigade has played its full part in connection with the civil defence organization. The very large number of ambulance men and women enrolled for air raid precautions in most cases provide the nucleus of the personnel under the local civil authorities for first-aid posts, shelters and rest centres, stretcher and rescue parties, and auxiliary ambulance services.

Civil Nursing Reserve.—Nearly 11,000 members are registered in the Civil Nursing Reserve as trained nurses, assistant nurses and nursing auxiliaries, and are employed in civil hospitals, first-aid posts and ambulance trains throughout the country.

National Blood Transfusion Service.—Brigade personnel are helping in the National Blood Transfusion Service by staffing depots, blood collection units, and in the role of donors.

Joint War Organization of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John.—At the outbreak of war, the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John formed a Joint Organization to meet the many humanitarian needs created by war conditions, and in all the activities of the Joint War Organization, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, ambulance and nursing divisions, take an active and vital share.

Cadet Divisions of The St. John Ambulance Brigade

The St. John Ambulance Brigade cadet divisions were formed in 1922 as a training ground for future members of the Brigade. These divisions are organized and officered on similar lines to the adult divisions and are open to boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 18.

The syllabus of cadet instruction includes first-aid, home nursing, child welfare and hygiene with the additional subjects of:

Aeroplane Accident Aid
A.R.P.
Camping and Nature Study
Clerical Ability
Cookery
Fire Fighting
Handicraft
Handyman
Housecraft

Interpretership
Knowledge and Care of Animals
Knowledge of the Order
Physical Exercises and Organized Games
Public Service and Citizenship
Sea and Boat Training
Signalling
Swimming and Life Saving

When trained, ambulance and nursing cadets undertake various duties, including work in hospitals, children's nurseries, canteens, A.R.P. service, libraries and bookbinding for the hospitals.

The cadet divisions are a recognized National Youth Movement. When the 16 to 18 age group registered for pre-service training, it was found that there was a greater demand amongst girls for training in first-aid and home nursing than for any other subject and this the Brigade, with its past experience of cadet work, was ready and able to meet.

At the end of 1943, the numbers of ambulance and nursing cadet members of the Brigade were:

Ambulance Cadets	19,330
Nursing Cadets	21,000

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

History

In 1877, The St. John Ambulance Association was formed as a Department of The Order of St. John. Two years later, the first manual of ambulance instruction was published and a stores department was established at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, for the supply of ambulance appliances and materials.

Purpose

The primary object of The Association is the instruction of persons in first-aid (including the transport of the sick and injured), home nursing, home hygiene, child welfare, sanitation, first-aid in mines, and cookery.

This is achieved by the formation of classes, organized by registered centres of the Association in the larger towns in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; in smaller towns and villages, classes are formed in direct communication with the Association Headquarters. Instruction is also provided by the Association throughout the Dominions and Colonies of the British Commonwealth.

The Association also undertakes the formation of ambulance depots in or near mines, factories and other centres of industry; the organization and administration of the invalid transport corps; the manufacture and distribution, by sale or presentation, of ambulance material; and generally the promotion of instruction in, and the carrying out of, works for the relief of the suffering of the sick and injured in peace and war.

Organization of Instruction

The Association provides recognized courses of instruction and awards certificates in the subjects mentioned above; and also arranges for refresher courses and re-examinations to ensure efficiency and for which awards are granted.

Training in first-aid and kindred subjects is provided for the general public and youth organizations and in particular for the personnel of the police force, the merchant navy, railway and transport workers, miners, industrial workers and auxiliary ambulance and nursing organizations, who, by the nature of their work require specialized training.

Instruction is given by qualified lecturers and examinations are conducted by members of the medical profession and approved experts.

THE ST. JOHN RESIDENTIAL TRAINING CENTRE

The St. John Residential Training Centre at the Manor House, Stratton Audley, near Bicester, offers a unique opportunity for quick and thorough training in first-aid and home nursing to members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the British Red Cross Society and others wishing to prepare themselves to serve their country as nurses under either of these Societies, or as nursing auxiliaries in the Civil Nursing Reserve. Since November, 1939, special courses, lasting two weeks only, have been arranged. Students are resident, and receive lectures on first-aid from medical men, and on home nursing, and practical instruction in both subjects from Sister W. Addison, S.R.M., S.C.M., a trainee and ex-ward sister of King's College Hospital, London.

The course prepares students for the examinations of the St. John Ambulance Association in both first-aid and home nursing. As the students are resident, they can devote all their time to study and practical work, except for off-duty periods. They have an excellent opportunity of becoming efficient in every branch of this work which includes bed-making, bandaging, carrying out of treatments, application of splints, etc. The classes are small, limited to 25 students, so that all benefit by personal supervision and coaching, and the school is well equipped with all the essential apparatus for study and practice.

The Training School was first started by Mrs. Beechwith-Smith, the originator of the scheme and is now housed in her home, the Manor House, Stratton Audley, where candidates live and work in delightful surroundings. The fees for the course are £5 which include instruction, board and lodging during the two weeks.

At the end of each course, examinations in first-aid and home nursing are held. Successful candidates may enrol in a nursing division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade or the British Red Cross Society and undertake nursing duties in convalescent homes and auxiliary hospitals, join a Voluntary Aid Detachment or qualify for membership in the Civil Nursing Reserve by taking 50 hours' preliminary hospital experience.

Over 700 students have been trained under this scheme already, and have been very successful both in their examinations and in the work they have subsequently undertaken. Some have gone on to become fully trained nurses, others are working in auxiliary or convalescent hospitals, or have qualified as nursing auxiliaries, whilst many others are working in first-aid posts, shelters and rest centres throughout the country. Wherever they go, they find the training obtained by taking this concentrated course invaluable.

WAR ORGANIZATION OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY AND THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM

Organization and Finance

At the outbreak of hostilities, the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem joined forces, forming the War Organization of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, thereby ensuring a co-ordination of action in the spheres of operation common to both bodies. It is to be observed that while the Joint War Organization is intended to control the activities of both organizations in time of war, nevertheless the Order and the Society retain their distinctive individuality.

The work of the War Organization is administered by a joint Executive Committee and joint Headquarters in London and is financed through a joint fund, the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St. John Fund.

Activities Undertaken by the Joint War Organization

Prisoner of War Food Parcels

Under the Convention in respect to prisoners of war, the detaining power is compelled to give the prisoners detained the same quantity and quality of food as it gives its own troops in the base camps. The food issued by the Germans (and Italians) is considered barely sufficient, is monotonous, and poor in quality and quantity as compared with the rations issued to British depot troops. It is therefore necessary to supplement materially the rations of the British prisoners of war confined in European prison camps.

The Red Cross and St. John is authorized by the Government to send regular parcels of food, tobacco, clothing and invalid comforts to British prisoners of war, and this is done through the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva.

The aim of the British and Dominion Red Cross Societies is to provide each prisoner of war and interned civilian with a standard weekly food parcel of eleven pounds in weight (weight determined by postal regulations in Britain and abroad), and fifty cigarettes or two ounces of tobacco. Each parcel contains a complete and balanced diet of the highest nutritive value, which has been specially planned with the assistance of Dietitians, and supplies what is lacking in the prison camp rations.

There are 19 packing centres in England and Scotland and 3,000 helpers engaged in packing and stringing the parcels for prisoners of war. The greater proportion of these helpers are volunteers. Up to the end of 1943, there were 13,942,081 food parcels despatched, and 210,000 special Christmas parcels were sent in August, 1943, for the Christmas of that year.

Upon arrival at a prison camp, the parcels are given over to the British prisoner chosen as "spokesman" by his fellow prisoners. It is he who gives the receipts for the parcels to the International Red Cross representative and it is he who distributes the parcels to his fellow-prisoners.

Some conception of the prisoners' dependence on these parcels can be judged from their letters and from the stories told by the repatriated men.

Next-of-Kin Quarterly Parcels

Once every three months, the next-of-kin of a prisoner of war (his wife; if not married, one of his parents; or some one other person appointed by him) may send a parcel of clothing, comforts, etc., not exceeding ten pounds. A list of articles which may be sent in next-of-kin parcels is printed and supplied by this organization.

Owing to regulations of censorship, no food besides that in the standard parcels may be sent to prisoners of war, with the exception of a solid slab of chocolate, which may be included in the parcels of clothing and other articles which their next-of-kin are permitted to send through this organization.

The Red Cross maintains a special department for receiving, checking, re-packing and despatching the parcels of clothing and comforts allowed to be sent quarterly. The next-of-kin are supplied with label, instructions and the regulation number of coupons for clothes for the prisoners and are afforded facilities for purchasing soap and chocolate.

Next-of-kin parcels are in addition to the regular weekly standard prison-of-war food parcel which only the Red Cross may send.

Additional assistance is given prisoners of war by the Invalid Comforts Section of this organization which sends parcels of invalid comforts, foods and drugs for the sick and wounded to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva to be forwarded to the camps and hospitals in all enemy territories for general use and to meet requisitions from camp captains and doctors.

Braille text-books and literature, typewriters, games, watches and occupational therapy are sent for the blind; as are the deaf alphabet, information on lip reading, hearing aids, etc., for the deaf. This Section also sends handicraft materials for the sick and disabled soldiers. All these comforts are sent in the usual manner to the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva.

For the further well-being and amusement of the prisoners of war, this organization sends games and sports equipment, books, musical instruments and music of all kinds, copies of plays and manuals on theatrical production, to Geneva for distribution to the prison camps.

Clothing, including greatcoats, battledress, underclothing, and boots, is packed and despatched by the organization and sent to the International Red Cross Committee to be forwarded to the camps for distribution among prisoners of war of all ranks from the three Services.

Prisoner of War Education

This is another feature of the joint work of the British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance. The Educational Books Section operates from the New Bodleian Library at Oxford University under the leadership of the Master of Balliol College, and works in close co-operation with the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva and with the other bodies represented on the Comité Consultatif—the International Y.M.C.A., the European Student Relief Fund, the Bureau International d'Éducation, and the Commission Œcuménique pour l'Aide Spirituelle aux Prisonniers de Guerre.

Up to the end of 1943, over 39,000 requests for books and special study courses had been received and handled, 190,000 books and 8,000 courses despatched. Each individual request receives personal and expert attention from the Section. Experts are recruited from the University of Oxford teaching staff who handle those requests which come within their respective spheres, outlining the course and listing the books required. In every instance, the books are selected by experts in their particular subjects and the relevant institutions or educational bodies are consulted about study courses.

It is of interest to note that over 90 per cent of the staff work is on a voluntary basis and that a large body of experts freely place their knowledge at the disposal of the Section. Office accommodation has been supplied without charge at the New Bodleian by the University of Oxford.

Considerable credit must be given to the Canadian Legion which has provided great quantities of educational books; to the International Y.M.C.A. which has done much to further this work; and to the Canadian Junior Red Cross which has contributed approximately \$45,000 in musical instruments, note books and various other items essential to the study of music, architecture, surveying and mechanical and civil engineering.

Wounded, Missing and Relatives Department

Although the prerogative of informing the next-of-kin that a man is either killed or a prisoner of war rests with the Service Ministry concerned, nevertheless this Department can and does do much to assist the Ministries in tracing members of the fighting forces, and has done a great deal in supplying supplementary information.

As this Department works in close co-operation with the three Ministries concerned, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, and is in constant communication with the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva, it has been singularly successful in tracing members of the fighting forces.

This Section has a staff of searchers who conduct enquiries for the missing man by interrogating wounded men in hospitals both at home and abroad, and any news of missing men that may be obtained is forwarded to the War Office.

Comrades of missing men who are prisoners of war and who are known to have been with the missing men are also questioned through the medium of the International Committee of the Red Cross and by their delegates visiting the prison camps.

In the case of wounded personnel in Britain, enquiries are handled by the one thousand liaison officers attached to various hospitals in the United Kingdom. A further and much appreciated service of kindness undertaken by this Section is the arrangement for transport and accommodation for the visiting relatives of men seriously or dangerously ill.

Through the welfare officers attached to the British Red Cross in the Middle East and in North Africa and through the Dominion and Colonial Red Cross Societies, information is gathered about wounded personnel in answer to enquiries received by this Section from relatives in Britain. This very often results in the strange circumstance of requests for information on the part of the wounded men about their relatives in Britain. These, of course, are answered through the Relatives Department of this Section.

In order to further facilitate this work, and so that no possible source of information will be overlooked, a record is kept in this Department of all enemy broadcasts and notes are made of names and messages.

This Department is in the particularly favourable position of pursuing enquiries about wounded and missing men and is carrying on one of the most important duties of the organization.

Foreign Relations Department

With war, hundreds of thousands of families were forced out of the countries where they and their ancestors lived, entire nations were made captive, and tragedy and separation became all too common. It is only necessary to think of the millions of refugees who had to leave their homes and their country and dispersed to other lands to realize the gigantic task in tracing these people. When the Germans swept across Europe and the foreign problems confronting the organization greatly increased, the Foreign Relations Department was established with its own charter and its functions clearly defined, thereby relieving the Wounded, Missing and Relative Department of the organization which formerly handled the foreign work.

The main function of the Foreign Relations Department is to relieve mental suffering by making enquiries for missing civilians of all nationalities, for the relatives and friends of persons in this country whose whereabouts in enemy or enemy-occupied territory is unknown; and for foreign soldiers, sailors, airmen and merchant seamen, and once contact is established by enabling them to maintain contact through the Red Cross Postal Message Scheme.

The enquiries are made to the occupied and enemy countries through the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva. This service in Geneva is on a tremendous scale, requiring a staff of over 3,500 clerks to handle inquiries in a score of different languages from all over the world. The quantity of mail which passes through this Department sometimes exceeds 60,000 pieces a day. Thousands of replies to these inquiries are sent daily to every part of the globe, the information for these replies being obtained by the Committee through its world-wide connections. Over 90 per cent of the enquiries have proved successful.

Once contact has been made, the Red Cross Postal Message is the only means whereby the members of a family or friends can keep in touch. To send a message of 25 words and receive a reply on the back, for which 14 languages are permitted, costs one shilling. The Foreign Relations Department is responsible for the British end of the scheme, and all incoming messages and reply messages are sent by the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva.

to this Department. The messages are handled by the Department through its 500 Red Cross Message Bureaux located in different parts of Britain and the scheme is also in operation in the Dominions and the Colonies.

Messages may now be sent to 28 countries including certain places in Japan and Japanese-occupied territory. Also, through this service, thousands of merchant seamen of all the Allied countries, on reaching port after many months at sea, receive postal messages bringing them news of home. The Red Cross Postal Scheme has spread a network of communication over enemy and enemy-occupied territory.

For the benefit of United Nations prisoners of war, a small packing centre was established in the autumn of 1940. At this packing centre, volunteers of ten nationalities pack the next-of-kin parcels for their men, and the organization assists them in the purchasing of the clothing and the packing of the parcels. Casualty lists of the United Nations' prisoners of war are passed by this Department to Geneva, from where the news they contain is sent on to the families in the occupied territories.

This Department is often asked to transmit documents such as birth certificates, death certificates, wills, powers of attorney, etc., which is done with the permission of the relevant Government Department.

In addition, this Department watches over the Red Cross Conventions, and the reciprocal treatment of prisoners of war in so far as the Red Cross is concerned, co-operates with the Allied Red Cross Committees established in London, organizes Inter-Allied Red Cross Conferences and acts as the intermediary between the Allied Red Cross Committees and the British Government Departments.

The Ministry of Labour regards the work of this Department as vital and important war work and directs through the National Service Acts and Control of Employment Orders the required number of workers, both paid and voluntary, necessary for the staffing of this Department.

It is a source of infinite satisfaction to the 300 workers in the huge records rooms of the Foreign Relations Department to know that their efforts have been so successful in bringing comfort to the distressed people throughout the world, and to know that they have been able, even in the few instances, to reunite husbands and wives and restore children to their parents.

Voluntary Aid Detachments

In 1909, the War Office issued a "scheme for the organization of voluntary aid in England and Wales" with the object of filling certain gaps in the medical service of the Territorial Force in the event of war.

Voluntary Aid Detachments (the members of which are known as V.A.D.'s) were set up before the last war by the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, to provide medical and nursing reserves for the Territorial Army. Between 1914 and 1918, they supplemented the work of the regular nursing services in military hospitals. In 1923, an amended V.A.D. scheme provided for the enrolment of both mobile and immobile members ready to serve in the event of the mobilization of the Territorial Army. The V.A.D. is governed by the regulations of the V.A.D. Council and its members undertake obligations: (a) Mobile—to serve in the event of war anywhere at home or abroad as required; (b) Immobile—to serve as required in their own neighbourhood.

During this war, in view of the needs of the civil population consequent upon air attack, the War Office released a number of V.A.D. members to serve as nursing auxiliaries in the civil nursing reserve.

In the purely "Service" hospitals, there are, in addition to the regular nursing staff, V.A.D.'s who have been trained by the British Red Cross Society or the Order of St. John. These women serve under the order of the War Office or other Service Ministries, but they retain their membership of the

Society or the Order. In the majority of Service hospitals, there is a V.A.D. Commandant who is the direct link between the V.A.D. and the parent body of which she is a member.

About 6,000 Red Cross and St. John members are serving as V.A.D.'s. V.A.D.'s who have not been called up and posted to a Service hospital, often serve for the time being in Emergency Medical Service or other civilian hospitals. Red Cross and St. John nurses who are working in civilian hospitals and who are not V.A.D.'s are known as nursing auxiliaries of the civil nursing reserve, more than 46,000 of whom have been supplied and trained by the Society and the Order to serve in the civil hospitals and on ambulance trains.

Red Cross and St. John members may join Voluntary Aid Detachments from which they are posted as mobile V.A.D.'s to Service hospitals, either as nursing members or as specialists, including dispensers, pharmacists, hospital cooks, and clerks. They may express a preference to serve in Naval, Military or Air Force hospitals.

V.A.D. pay is at the rate of 2/6d per day. Board and lodging are provided and a laundry allowance of 3/6d per week. After three months, a V.A.D. is eligible to be classed as "Grade 1" and her pay rises to 2/10d a day. An initial grant of £15 for the uniform is provided.

Central Hospital Supply Service

The Central Hospital Supply Service is a nation-wide service that has been doing continuous and ever-increasing good work for more than four years as part of the War Organization. Its 250,000 workers, knitters and stitchers, who range from tiny working parties in remote rural districts to large groups in the big centres, make the hospital clothing and dressings for the hospitals and convalescent homes of the three fighting services.

For this purpose, from material issued to them by the War Organization, the working parties have made up four million yards of material and two hundred and fifty tons of wool. In addition, they have made two million garments for convalescents and for air-raid victims and given them as gifts to the War Organization.

The hospital clothing, dressings and other garments are collected from all parts of the United Kingdom, checked, packed in standard Red Cross cases, and made ready for distribution to any point in the United Kingdom or abroad.

This is an unspectacular service undertaken by thousands of busy women but a service that has never yet failed to fulfil the demands made upon it.

Wartime Nurseries

The nation has a duty to safeguard the health and well-being of its children and general care is exercised over all children under five years of age in England and Wales under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918, and Scotland has its own services administered by the Department of Health for Scotland. Child welfare services mainly initiated by voluntary bodies, and increasingly taken over and extended by the public health authorities, have always worked to improve child care in the home. The provision of nursery care apart from the family home has been of secondary consideration, though now the urgencies of total war have given it much greater importance.

Married women form a most valuable reservoir of labour. Not only can they take their place in essential industries but they are needed to fill the gaps in all trades and professions. Although war work done by mothers with children under 14 living at home is of a purely voluntary responsibility, at the same time, many mothers are willing to work, provided arrangements can be made for the care of their younger children during working hours. The authorities are doing everything to facilitate the recruiting of women into

industry and it is the policy of the government to provide as many nurseries as possible. These are being opened as quickly as building, equipment and staff can be obtained.

The wartime or day nursery is established at the request of the Minister of Labour in districts where there is a shortage of women workers. Questions of policy are decided by the Ministry of Health, the cost of establishment and maintenance of the wartime nursery is borne by the Treasury, and the Ministry of Health provides the equipment.

In peacetime, there were 120 nursery schools providing accommodation for about 9,000 children. Approximately one-half of these schools were provided by the local authorities and the other half by voluntary associations of different kinds. Children between the ages of two and five were admitted and the schools were recognized by the Board of Education. In wartime, most of the nursery schools which were in the industrial areas and vulnerable to air attack were closed; only 50 were evacuated to the country. During this time of war, the nursery school is being sacrificed to the more urgently required wartime nursery. The latest available figures show 1,631 wartime nurseries in operation in England and Wales with 840 more hutment nurseries and 200 wartime nurseries in Scotland. The development of wartime nurseries has by no means been finished and the establishment of many more is under consideration.

The full-time wartime nursery is open for 12 to 15 hours a day with some of them open for 24 hours to meet the need of women working on night shifts. Although there are a small number of part-time nurseries whose hours of opening correspond roughly to school hours, the majority are whole-time nurseries taking 40 children. If the nursery is not within easy reach of the workers' homes, free transportation is provided. Children of all ages up to five years of age are accepted. Each nursery is under the charge of a Matron with full hospital or children's hospital experience. She has on her staff certificated nursery nurses, young probationers taking a course of training, and a domestic staff. Nursery teachers are employed in the nurseries for the older children. Arrangements are made for regular medical inspection. Three meals a day are provided, as are clothing and toys. The mothers, however, pay 1s. per day for each child and 1s/6d. if a child sleeps at the nursery.

In addition, the local educational authorities have set up Wartime Nursery Classes in the elementary schools for children of two or five years of age which are open during school hours. In certain districts, however, the hours are extended to meet the needs of local industrial conditions. Play centres have also been provided for school children between the ages of five to ten, whose mothers may be working a long day and do not return home until seven in the evening. The children may have dinner or tea at the school or play centre, and in some cases, facilities have been provided for breakfast as well. Where meals are provided at the play centres and schools, arrangements have been made to include the children attending nursery classes. All "under-fives" are entitled to a number of food priorities, are given cod liver oil, fruit juices, milk and eggs.

Nursery work is regarded by the Ministry of Labour as essential war work and women engaged in it will not be required to change their occupations. In fact, the Ministry of Labour encourages and promotes the enrolment of women for nursery work. Many voluntary helpers, both whole-time and part-time, give most useful and faithful service.

Residential Nurseries

Possibilities of evacuation in the event of war were first examined in the summer of 1938 under a committee whose Chairman was Sir John Anderson. On the basis of this report, a plan was devised for the removal of London children at the time of the Munich crisis in September of that year. This plan

was not put to the test at that time and the year which followed was used to prepare a more complete scheme drawn up by the Ministry of Health, assisted by officials, seconded from the Board of Education.

For the purpose of this scheme, the country was divided into evacuation, neutral and reception areas. Evacuation areas were those from which certain "priority" classes (school children unaccompanied by their parents, and mothers with children under five) were to be given the opportunity of transfer to safer areas in the event of war. Reception areas were those assigned to receive the evacuated persons. Neutral areas were to be neither senders nor receivers. The main object of the Government's evacuation scheme was to secure the dispersal of children from the crowded towns where the effect of air attack would be most serious. The Government undertook the cost of the scheme.

Evacuation began in September of 1939, but it was during the heavy bombings of 1940-41 that large numbers of children were evacuated from the dangerous areas. The residential war nursery became an integral part of the scheme. By the end of 1942, 415 residential nurseries were already established, accommodating 13,000 children and supported by a staff of 4,000.

At first, the children who came to these nurseries were nearly all evacuees from badly bombed towns, but now that Britain has passed from the defensive to the offensive, the residential nurseries are meeting a different need. They are releasing many valuable women workers for the Services and the factories by taking charge of their children.

Before admission to a residential nursery, the children to be evacuated from the London Region must be passed by the Metropolitan Evacuation Panel. The children selected for admission to a residential nursery are first sent to one of the receiving nurseries established in London for that purpose where they remain a minimum of 48 hours, are outfitted and medically inspected. From there, they are escorted to the residential nursery chosen to receive them.

The nurseries vary in size, usually housing about 40 with the majority of the children between the ages of two and five. The numbers and the ages are decided by the Ministry of Health, according to the size and suitability of the premises.

The staff consists of a Matron who is generally a State-Registered nurse of either general or children's hospital training; a deputy or assistant matron, who is a trained or experienced nursery nurse; trained staff nurses; and uncertificated nursery assistants. In all nurseries where there are a number of children over two years of age, every effort is made to provide a nursery school teacher.

The children are under the direct control of the Matron who in turn is responsible to one of several organizations. These organizations are each in their turn responsible to the Ministry of Health for the administration of their group of nurseries.

Many voluntary organizations (W.V.S., Priestly Council, Canadian Red Cross, Save-the-Children Fund) administer nurseries on behalf of the Ministry of Health. True to the spirit of the "Declaration of the Rights of the Child" adopted at Geneva in 1924, "that the child must be the first to receive relief in times of distress," the War Organization of the Red Cross and St. John, at the request of the Ministry of Health, converted three convalescent homes to residential nurseries. The Ministry of Health requested more and now there are 23 large and beautiful country homes devoted to the care of the "under-fives". These homes which are now looking after 900 children, are financed by the Ministry of Health, but are staffed, equipped and administered by the War Organization.

Although the children come to the nurseries from all manner of homes, and though they may have arrived ill, under-nourished, or nervous, one thing soon becomes common to all—outstanding good health. "For the child not yet five, the 'four freedoms' are simple—food, occupation, warmth and love. And at the

Residential Nurseries of the Red Cross and St. John, these four freedoms are translated into daily practice. Diet is carefully planned and includes plenty of milk, salad stuffs, cod liver oil and fruit juices. The children live to a pattern that provides ample sleep, simple creative occupations, regular rest periods, out-of-door walks and games, while skilled and affectionate guidance teaches each one to live as a member of the community, accepting its restrictions, yet developing freely within it." Children who may have been social casualties become happy, confident children. Parents are happy in the knowledge that their children are getting the best care that the country can provide; children without one or both parents are given a safe haven; and hundreds of mothers are giving their full time to the war effort, secure in the knowledge that their children are happy and well. These residential nurseries are something more than an emergency measure; they are a valuable experiment.

Red Cross and St. John Hospital Library

From the county depots established all over England and Wales, over two million books and magazines have been distributed to the service and civilian hospitals, convalescent homes, sick bays, camp reception stations and air force sick quarters, both in Britain and abroad. Large quantities of books and magazines have been despatched to the Middle East, North Africa, Malta, Gibraltar and West Africa.

There are over 800 voluntary librarians working in the hospitals of England and Wales and although some new and special books have been purchased, all the rest have been obtained by voluntary collections and appeals.

Chelsea Sick Bay

The War Organization offers facilities for recuperation and convalescence to those, who though not so ill as to be detained in hospital, require nursing in bed for a short period, and admits to its twenty-six bed sick bay, members of the British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance, members of the Canadian and American Red Cross Societies, full-time W.V.S. workers and F.A.N.Y.'s, Civil Defence and National Fire Service workers.

Over 600 patients have been nursed in the sick bay since it was opened, and such cases as influenza, bronchitis, jaundice and minor accidents have been treated, while many cases of major operations have been admitted on discharge from hospital.

Emergency Help Committee for Disabled Ex-Service Men

Joint Council Funds are available only for those disabled in the last war, but the Committee is enabled by grants from the Red Cross and St. John War Organization to give temporary assistance to men and women invalided from the services during the present war.

Assistance is only given when the need is connected with disablement and when the proposed assistance is not primarily within the scope of a public authority or of some other voluntary fund.

The latest available figures show 1,106 men and 11 women assisted by the Committee, and the availability of employment for even heavily-disabled men and the increased earnings of other members of their households account for the small number of applications for assistance.

A high proportion of disabled men use the Committee's 560 motor units which enable them to carry out work of real use to the country and which they would otherwise have been unable to do.

Ambulance and Transport Section

The Red Cross and St. John War Organization maintains a fleet of over 1,100 motor vehicles for the service of the sick and wounded at home and overseas. Some are attached to the Army Commands, others to auxiliary hospitals and convalescent homes belonging to the War Organization, some are kept in reserve to answer emergency calls anywhere in the country.

Repatriated prisoners and civilian refugees are transported at the request of the Ministry concerned and sick service men are transported from one hospital to another.

Old people, cripple and chronic cases, have been evacuated from the dangerous areas by motor transport, and children conveyed from their homes to the stations.

In addition to these ambulances, there are physiotherapy units and mobile X-ray units for use in the nursing homes and cottage hospitals, mobile first-aid units, mobile canteens which serve hot drinks and sandwiches to sick service men and returning repatriated prisoners, mobile medical stores, field dressing stations and mobile dispensaries.

Auxiliary Hospitals and Convalescent Homes

At the request of the War Office and the Ministry of Health, the War Organization of the Red Cross and St. John provides auxiliary hospitals and convalescent homes for officers, N.C.O.'s and other ranks. Some of these institutions are specially reserved for members of the Women's Auxiliary Services, Nurses, V.A.D.'s and for the fighting men of the United Nations. There are 234 such institutions in England and Wales and the War Organization is responsible for the staffing, administration and for the maintenance of supplies.

In the hospitals for the sick and wounded service men, occupational therapy brings help and interest; weaving, needlework, leatherwork and other creative crafts help to while away the monotonous days and to supply the convalescents with new interests. The War Organization supplies the materials for all such occupations, and also provides gardening tools, and equipment for indoor and outdoor games.

First-Aid Posts, Medical-Aid Posts, and Gas Cleansing Stations

Thousands of men and women trained by the Red Cross or St. John give full or part-time service to the Civil Defence Services. Stretcher bearers, ambulance drivers and attendants work hand in hand with the civil defence personnel during and after air raids. There have been about 60,000 men, women and children seriously injured in air raids and all these helpless and suffering people have had to be removed from burning and blasted shelters and homes, and from the shattered streets by the ambulance squads. Members of the Red Cross or St. John doing duty at the first-aid and medical-aid posts have seen grim service.

The letters F.A.P. are seen on sign-posts in every city and village in Britain. The posts are organized by the local civil authorities and are usually located in protected places. In the City of London, where the air raids have been most continuous and exhausting, there are 315 fixed F.A.P.'s. Members of the Red Cross or St. John are employed either as full-time workers, in which case they are paid, or part-time workers giving voluntary service.

The posts are staffed day and night. The supplies of bandages, splints, dressings, and medicines are always in readiness for instant use, and beds and stretchers are prepared for the injured. Ambulance and stretcher cars with their civil defence drivers are in attendance ready to transport the more seriously injured to the hospitals.

The gas cleansing station, if located at a first-aid post, is carefully separated from the rest of the post with separate entrances and exits. The staff of the cleansing stations are expertly trained decontamination squads.

The arrangements made for sheltering the people of Britain is one of the wartime marvels. Thousands of people have sought refuge in shelters and the sight of the Red Cross or St. John uniform has done much to maintain civilian morale. The establishment of medical-aid posts at the shelters with their trained personnel have given the people comforting evidence and assurance that everything is being done to ensure their safety and their health. The fact that the much-feared and anticipated outbreak of epidemics never materialized is due in a very large measure to the watchfulness on the part of the staffs of the posts. At the slightest sign of illness or disease, steps are immediately taken to prevent the spread of disease and the suspected patient is confined to isolation quarters provided at all the posts. Children are most particularly watched and all medical-aid posts in the shelters provide separate quarters for children who are ill or who need special care. It would be difficult to over-estimate the value of the assistance given by the women of the first-aid posts, or their influence upon the civilians who come to them for help.

Additional arrangements for the sheltering of the people have been provided. Eight new deep shelters have been built and equipped by the Ministry of Home Security. Not yet in use, these are intended for use as reserve shelters and are situated in the various parts of the London region. Each shelter has accommodation for 12,000 people, 8,000 in bunks, 4,000 seated. They are on an average between 110 and 130 feet below ground, are air-conditioned, with the five entrances to each shelter, made bomb-proof. Two Medical-Aid Posts have been established in each of these shelters and the medical arrangements and personnel for the staff are supplied to the shelters north of the River Thames by the British Red Cross Society, to those south of the river by the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Both the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade prepare a rota for every night, to staff the posts in the shelters allotted to them, and all on rota are liable to be called for duty on short notice. This work is classified as secret for security reasons.

It is interesting to note that these deep shelters have been opened during the week-ends for the use of the Forces. Since November, 1942, when the scheme was inaugurated, 350,000 men have been accommodated. Each soldier has his own bunk, is issued a ticket giving the name of the section in which he is to sleep and the number of his bunk. He is given a mattress, pillow, bed-cover, and two blankets. Towels and hot water are also supplied. A charge of 1/- is now made to each member of the Forces using this accommodation in order to bring the shelters into line with the general hostels scheme within the London area. This price, however, is much lower than that charged at most hostels.

The men are taken to the shelter by special transport which operates from well-known and central points such as the service clubs, and no charge is made to the men for this service.

Canteen services are arranged and are open at 11 p.m. until 2.30 a.m. and again at 6 a.m. until 9.30 a.m. On Sunday mornings, the shelters must be cleared by 10 o'clock. Canteen staffs, the whole of which are unpaid volunteers, are supplied by the churches, and the women's co-operative guilds attached to the Royal Arsenal Co-Operative Society. Facilities for reading are provided for the man next to the canteens, and music and instruction are broadcast over the loud-speaker system.

In crowded London, where sleeping accommodation is often most difficult to find, this scheme has been immensely appreciated by the men of the Services.

Mobile Units

Mobile units are first-aid posts on wheels and during raids are called out to deal with casualties on the spot. They have proved of inestimable value in areas where heavy bombing or sudden attack has imposed great strain on local organization, and have proved to be a valuable aid for the immediate treatment of the injured caught under debris.

The van carries complete first-aid equipment, sterilizing equipment, dressings, instruments, splints, basins and medicines; its entire contents can be removed and set up again in the amazingly short space of four minutes, thereby providing a first-aid post in any small space such as a garage or house in a district where assistance is needed. Each van is staffed with a doctor, four nurses from either Red Cross or St. John and two male light rescue civilian defence drivers; each member of the staff is expertly trained for duty on the van. These vans and their courageous staff have done remarkable service during the heavy bombings.

THE SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND AIRMENS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Organization and Purpose

This is an Association founded by Colonel Sir James Gilday in 1895 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1926. Its most important task is to look after the families of men and women who are serving or who have served in the fighting forces of the Imperial, Dominion and Allied Forces, and to assist their widows and orphans. Serving on the Council of the Association are representatives of the Services, the Admiralty, the War Office and the Air Ministry.

For all its purposes, this Association has representatives in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Eire, the Dominions, India and the Colonies, thereby providing a network of communications throughout the Empire for facilitating the solution or alleviation of the problems of the men and women of His Majesty's Forces. In the United Kingdom, the work of the Association is carried on through its 1,300 branches and with the help of over 17,000 volunteers.

This Association is concerned with the welfare of the families of Service and ex-Service men and women, and assists them whenever possible to find employment. To those in special distress, it gives temporary grants and acts as an intermediary for applicants entitled to assistance from official sources and other Service funds. By acting as the friendly advisers of Service families, local representatives of the Association can do much to further the well-being of all families under their care.

Every kind of financial and domestic difficulty affecting the Service families is dealt with by this Association, and the families of the women serving in the A.T.S., the W.R.N.S. and the W.A.A.F. receive the same assistance as the families of men serving in the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Since September 1939, over £350,000 has been sent by head office to local branches to help in this work and this has made heavy inroads into the Association's capital.

Activities

The most outstanding forms of assistance given by this Association are in general:—

Financial Assistance.—In cases of emergency and special distress this Association gives financial assistance in the form of temporary grants, to the families of all members of the fighting forces and the widows and orphans of the deceased. Weekly allowances are given to widows and orphans if payment of pensions is delayed. In many cases, officers of the Association have consented to act as guardians for children.

Children and Homes Department.—This Association maintains eight homes in England, several more in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland which provide temporary accommodation for the families of service men whose homes have been bombed or who are in need of a rest and change. The children of service men who have been deprived of their mothers' care are kept until arrangements can be made to place them in suitable homes. Plans for the opening of more homes are under consideration.

Nursing Services.—The Association's "Alexandra Nurses", who are qualified district nurses, attend wives and families of serving soldiers, sailors and airmen at the larger garrisons and seaport towns at home and abroad. Garrisons of one hundred families of the rank and file can apply for the service of an Alexandra Nurse, and the cost is borne jointly by the Association and the garrison.

Officers' Branch.—It is believed that this Association is the only organization financially assisting the families of officers. In most cases, the rate of officers' pay is rarely equal to the strain of any unexpected expenditure due to illness or other distress and therefore this Association assists the families of officers with temporary grants. In addition, this Association, which owns eight acres of ground at Wimbledon provides seventy-nine flats rent-free to the widows and unmarried daughters of deceased officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force, whose income must be less than £200. As the average income of the applicants is about £110, there is always a long waiting list. The Association has a rent grant fund to assist unmarried daughters of deceased officers who were left at their mother's death, with the pension withdrawn, in distressing financial circumstances. This is a continuing grant.

Clothing.—There are 250 small depots in the United Kingdom from which clothing, and footwear, layettes and blankets are distributed. This Organization during 1943, received from the Canadian Red Cross Society 448,584 garments being nearly one half of the total number of garments (973,233) given out. This Organization is particularly dependent on help for clothing from overseas and owes particular appreciation to the Canadian Red Cross for clothing, layettes and sheets, and to the Maple Leaf Fund which has supplied them with a considerable and valuable quantity of blankets, which are almost unprocurable in the United Kingdom. As the war continues, more of the civilian population become dependents of the serving men and consequently the need for S.S.A.F.A. clothing becomes both enormous and immediate. The Ministry of Health in discussion with the W.V.S. (who hold great stocks of clothing in reserve) and the S.S.A.F.A. arranged a scheme whereby the W.V.S. would supply clothing to the S.S.A.F.A. in districts where this Association had no depots.

Air Raid Enquiry Scheme.—This Association was selected by the Welfare Department of the War Office to assist in the Air Raid Enquiry Scheme and has been selected in 75 per cent of the cities and towns throughout the United Kingdom to handle enquiries from service men who are anxious about their families in towns which have been bombed.

In addition, this Association investigates and reports for the use of the War Office the applications for compassionate leave, or for transfer nearer home. This Association receives and answers enquiries from service men abroad regarding their families at home. As this service covers the whole field of service welfare work, it is enormously appreciated and has been commended in many instances by the Officers Commanding.

The importance of the work of this Association cannot be too strongly stressed as it relieves the troops serving overseas of family worries and domestic problems, thereby obviously contributing to their morale and general well-being.

It is well appreciated that the excellent work being done by this Organization will of course not cease with the termination of hostilities and it is certainly deserving of consideration and help.

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE

It is not intended in this report to survey in detail the work of the W.V.S. as this will undoubtedly be covered most specifically by the appointees who were assigned to this particular phase of women's contribution to the war effort in the United Kingdom. However, certain phases of the W.V.S. work are referred to in this report when certain projects under consideration are common to the W.V.S. and to other organizations which come within the scope of this survey.

It is indeed of paramount interest to note the direction exercised by the Government over this tremendous and powerful organization and the close harmony which exists between the Government Departments and the executive heads of the W.V.S.

The Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence came into being in 1938 under the aegis of the Home Secretary of that time and at the outbreak of the present war had over 335,000 members. The membership has now increased to a million and a half under the able direction of the Dowager Marchioness of Reading. The Minister of Home Security has stated that he regards the Women's Voluntary Services as having the same relationship to his Department as the Women's Auxiliary Services have to the Armed Forces of the Crown. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the W.V.S. policy is formulated by the Home Office and the expenses of the organization are born by the Home Office. Because of this, the W.V.S. is sometimes not regarded as a strictly voluntary organization whose policy is determined by their own governing body independently of any statutory authority. There is a very close co-operation between the W.V.S. and all Government Departments. It may safely be said that the Government officially recognizes and supports this organization to such an extent that it may almost be considered to be a department of the Government.

Having regard to the large membership of 1,050,000 members, there are exceptionally few paid members, only 167 including lift boys and janitors. The executive heads of the organization function on a purely voluntary basis. Many of the services for which men and women in the United Kingdom are now required to register, were originally voluntary services. As most of the organization's younger members were surrendered under the Registration for Employment Orders and the National Service Acts, the W.V.S. can now be described as the war service of the older women and the housewife.

Of interest to Canadians are the huge stocks of clothing held by the W.V.S. on behalf of the Canadian Red Cross. The W.V.S. also hold great stocks of clothing on behalf of the American Red Cross and the London County Council and purchases all garments for the Lord Mayor's of London Air Raid Distress Fund.

WORK OF THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY OVERSEAS

Organization

The Canadian Red Cross work in Britain is directed by an Overseas Advisory Committee, presided over by the Rt. Hon. The Viscount Bennett and composed of outstanding Canadian citizens residing in the United Kingdom. Its administrative work is taken care of by Major General C. B. Price, C.B.E., D.C.M., Overseas Commissioner, and staff, all appointed and directly responsible to the Society's head office in Canada.

Canadian Red Cross Hospital

In July 1940, the Canadian Red Cross built a model military hospital at Taplow, at a cost of \$755,000. When construction was completed and the building equipped, it was turned over to the Government of Canada as a contribution from the people of the Dominion through the Red Cross. This hospital is considered unsurpassed in Britain and many members of the medical profession make a point of inspecting the place. It has over 600 beds, all of which are in constant use. The hospital includes modern laboratories, a plastic unit, and the most up to date surgical and ward equipment. At the end of the war, the building will be turned over to the British for a hospital for children.

Warehousing of Supplies

The millions of articles shipped by the Canadian Red Cross fall into two general groups:—

Supplies and comforts for members of our armed forces, military hospitals and soldier patients—These supplies are divided among a number of Red Cross warehouses in Berkshire, which although decentralized are in comparatively close proximity to the hospitals and troops they serve. Each building contains a representative stock of Red Cross supplies so that should enemy action affect any of the buildings, specific items would be readily obtainable from the other warehouses. Relief clothing and supplies for bombed victims—arrangements have been effected whereby the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence, and organizations distributing relief to bomber civilians in all parts of Britain, act for the Canadian Red Cross in this type of relief work. The United Kingdom is divided for purposes of defence, into twelve regions and the Women's Voluntary Services have organized on the same regional plan. The Canadian Red Cross civilian relief supplies are sent direct from the port of entry to designated W.V.S. regional centres where they are immediately broken down into age groups and then distributed to cities and towns within each region. It will be seen, therefore, that a maximum of dispersal of this type of Red Cross supplies has been effected and that they are usually very close to any location in which they may be urgently needed.

Distribution of Field Comforts and Hospital Supplies

Under arrangements with the Canadian Government and the armed forces, the distribution of field comforts and hospital supplies provided by the Red Cross is made only on requisition. All combat and auxiliary troops in the Canadian forces in the British Isles, as well as general hospitals, field ambulances, etc., are given requisitions on arrival. Usually the District Medical Officer or Auxiliary Services Officer is responsible for sending in requests for Red Cross supplies. Requisitions must be signed by Commanding Officers of the respective formations. Upon receipt of the requisition, the supplies are delivered quickly, usually by truck, to the unit concerned. It will be observed that under this system Red Cross goods go directly from the warehouse to the units, and distribution to the individual sailor, soldier or airman is handled by the unit and not the Red Cross. The Society believes this to be the fairest method of distribution. The only exceptions to this rule are in such instances as hospital visiting, where the visitor personally gives gifts to the patient.

Distribution of Civilian Relief

In the dark days of Dunkirk, the British Red Cross lost a big part of its supplies. This was a serious blow, but the Canadian Red Cross Society stepped into the breach and provided millions of articles including clothing, blankets, quilts and other comforts. It was fortunate that the Canadian organization was able to do this, as many lives must have been saved in September, 1940, during the intensive bombing, particularly in London which bore the brunt of the attacks.

The supplies provided were distributed through the Charity Organization Society in London, and later through the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence for the whole of Britain. As all these articles carried a Canadian Red Cross label, thousands of letters of thanks and appreciation were received from war victims by the Society's overseas office.

The Red Cross overseas department responsible for this project is known as the "Relief and Workroom Department", and deserves much credit for what has been accomplished. One outstanding bit of service was the provision of clothing for several thousand children evacuated from the Channel Islands in June, 1940.

It should be stated that assistance to children in all sections of Britain has been an important part of the overseas civilian relief program. For example, when Coventry was blitzed, one Canadian military hospital had just been set up in a nearby Midland town. It had not been opened or supplied with nurses. The medical staff was on hand but had only the equipment required for a men's hospital. However, the Canadian Red Cross went quickly to the rescue and within two hours, a staff of fourteen nurses, together with layettes, one hundred feeding bottles and all the requirements for the care of infants, were on their way to relieve the emergency.

Considerable aid in the form of comforts, medical supplies and clothing has also been given to the people of the United Nations who have found refuge in the United Kingdom. Close co-operation is maintained as well with the Red Cross organizations of their respective countries. The practicality of such co-operation was demonstrated in the early days of Russia's struggle against Germany. There was a desperate shortage of medical supplies in that country, and an appeal was made through Madame Maisky, wife of the Soviet Union's Ambassador to the Court of St. James and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of Canadian Red Cross supplies were immediately despatched from Britain, saving a good deal of valuable time.

Some idea of the amount of supplies furnished overseas by the Canadian Red Cross can be gained by the following figures of some of the items distributed: 27,000,000 articles for the Canadian armed forces and civilian war victims; 25,000 cases for Allied Red Cross Societies and hospitals; 300 ambulances and other vehicles; 36 mobile kitchens and 1,300,000 pounds of jam and honey for British children.

One of the most interesting phases of work undertaken by the Canadian Red Cross in Britain is the fourteen war nurseries equipped and maintained by the members of the Junior Red Cross. These nurseries care for hundreds of children under five years of age, many of whom are orphans from the slum areas, and quite a few are bomb scarred.

Hospital Service

Besides hospital buildings, equipment and other supplies, the Canadian Red Cross has also contributed to overseas military hospitals a personal service to patients which has been greatly appreciated. The purposes of this service are to provide extra comforts, arrange cheerful occupations, and through friendly visits to make sure that no member of the Canadian forces feels lonely or

forgotten while in hospital. To achieve this objective, it was necessary to organize hundreds of hospital visitors around nearly all the hospitals in Britain which receive military casualties. Upon receipt of advice from the Canadian Records Office of the reception into hospital of a Canadian sailor, soldier or airman the appointed visitors for that hospital are advised by Red Cross headquarters in London, and in a very short time a visitor is at his bedside. Throughout the year, perhaps one hundred hospitals receive thousands of visits from this group of five hundred workers. This is augmented by women of the Canadian Red Cross Corps, who have been trained and sent over to Britain to teach handicrafts and operate library services in the Canadian military hospitals.

Enquiry Services

One of the traditional Red Cross services which is being maintained in this war, as it was in the last, is the Enquiry Service. Through this, citizens in Canada are assisted in obtaining information about relatives and friends overseas. Enquiries in regard to prisoners of war in occupied or foreign countries are referred to the International Red Cross in Geneva, which acts in time of war as the central agency through which pass all communications between governments of belligerent countries. In Britain, the Canadian Red Cross and the British Red Cross receive thousands of enquiries about missing persons, and every possible effort is made to obtain and quickly transmit required information to next-of-kin relatives. These enquiries may be in regard to the health, welfare or whereabouts of Canadian, British or Allied sailors, soldiers, airmen or civilians. In Britain, as in Canada, governmental and other agencies co-operate with the Red Cross in obtaining the required information. All of this information, including particulars in regard to all members of the Canadian forces in hospital, is kept on extensive card index files.

Maple Leaf Clubs

The first Maple Leaf Club was opened by the Canadian Red Cross in the spring of 1940, and proved a popular home for non-commissioned officers and members of the Canadian forces while visiting the Empire capital on leave. Bombed and temporarily put out of operation by enemy action at various times, the club always managed to re-open and carry on its most appreciated service.

A second club of this type has since been opened, in addition to a residential centre for nursing sisters. This club has been made possible through the generosity of Mr. Garfield Weston, M.P. in whose town house the club is located.

Maple Leaf Club No. 4 was opened by Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Kent, in February of this year. This club is exclusively for junior officers and was an instant success.

Canadian Red Cross Corps

Nearly two years ago, the first detachment of the Canadian Red Cross Corps was sent to Britain. Since that time, the number has swollen to almost two hundred, including a detachment of recreational workers who are operating behind the Italian front. The girls sent to Britain are working in an administrative capacity at the Overseas Office of the Society in London, while others operate the Maple Leaf Clubs and a canteen in British Columbia House, which is open to members of all the United Nations forces. Other girls are working as recreational workers in Canadian and military hospitals, while two are in St. Dunstan's, famous home for blind servicemen. These highly

trained women have been much appreciated in the United Kingdom by the military authorities and our own men, and they have established a reputation of which the Red Cross is very proud.

Appreciation

The Canadian Red Cross Society has been responsible in no small measure for Britain's appreciation of Canada's war effort. Supplies sent by the Canadian people through the Canadian Red Cross are in evidence everywhere in the United Kingdom, in hospitals, orphanages, bomb shelters, rest homes and service clubs. In fact, the Canadian Red Cross quilts have become a Canadian trademark.

There are expressions of gratitude on all sides for Canada's effort and for its enormous contribution of food and munitions. There is also a general feeling of interest in Canada on the part of the people of Britain. Canada has captured their imagination and respect and many are hoping and planning to settle here after the war.

PRE-ARMISTICE RELIEF

It is fully recognized that the help of civilian volunteers will be needed by the authorities concerned for relief work in liberated territories in Europe. At the present time, the only organization with officially recognized post-war aims is the Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad. Societies represented on the Council must have international affiliations, and must of necessity be traditionally and internationally associated with overseas relief. The functions of this Council and its ancillary body, the Standing Conference, were defined in the United Kingdom Parliament on the 5th of August, 1943, as "the officially recognized body through which the plans and activities of British voluntary organizations can be co-ordinated and made available as and when needed by appropriate United Kingdom or international authorities."

Under the chairmanship of Sir William Goode (Government Director of Relief after the last war) and under the deputy-chairmanship of Viscountess Falmouth (British Red Cross Society) the Council is completing a register both of teams and individuals available for relief work abroad. The various societies enroll on their registers men and women with the qualifications necessary for the work and are planning Units of different kinds against the time when they are required.

A memorandum from the Viscountess Falmouth states, "The method of organization is that the Council is approached by the Government Relief Department when units are required, stating the number and nature of the units required and probable destination. Those societies, which are ready to provide units at this particular time, meet and agree among themselves how the personnel should be provided.

"The Relief Department is then informed which are available and is asked to arrange for Ministry of Labour release permits, passages, etc. The Societies maintain their own units in the field and the personnel remain under the control of their own Society, and as far as possible of their unit. They are, however, under the operational orders of the Army in the first phase or of whatever Government Department may be in charge during the later phases. The Council hopes to provide units for the U.N.R.R.A. when that body is in control of relief in any given place."

The British Red Cross has received two requests for units of workers for civilian relief work overseas: one being received from the Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad asking for two mobile medical teams, one refugee team and stores offices and dispensers; while the other request was for a Unit

of workers to co-operate with the American Red Cross abroad. Complying with the request from the American Red Cross and with the full approval of the Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad, the War Organization has sent out a unit of twenty-two men and women to work in co-operation with the American Red Cross in Italy. This comprises two general relief teams, including medical officer and state registered nurse.

In addition, and at the request of the authorities, a group of Units is being prepared by the British Red Cross for early transport to the Middle East. These will comprise mobile medical teams consisting of: doctor, state registered nurse, hygienic and sanitary experts, nursing assistants, drivers, orderlies; relief units, consisting of a camp commandant, and men and women specializing in the organization, running and welfare of refugee camps; bacteriological units with laboratory assistants; and units dealing with dis-infestation and water purification.

Perhaps the best promise of success for the plan is Lady Iris Capell's comment. "Since the formation of the Council, member Societies have given much evidence of their enthusiasm for the work of relief, and of their willingness to co-operate whole-heartedly in any measures which not only assist their individual schemes but which are for the ultimate benefit of all."

WOMEN IN POST-WAR BRITAIN

At the National Conference of Women on Post-War Rehabilitation called by His Majesty's Government, Miss Dorothy Elliott said, "If you cannot win the war without the women, neither can we achieve the peace of the world without their aid." This seems to represent quite clearly the woman's attitude in the United Kingdom and without limitation in scope either of employment or opportunity.

Miss Megan Lloyd George at the same conference said, "We do ask. . . that we shall be brought in, to assist the Government in planning at every stage and at every level. . . not so much because we think we have a right, although we have earned that right, but because we have a definite contribution to make. . . not only. . . on women's questions. . . but a contribution to make on the whole range of social and industrial questions."

No Government plan has been announced and it appears that the women's desires to share actively in post-war conditions will come into conflict with the Government's announced intentions to return service men on demobilization to their pre-wartime employment or to find jobs for them. There is no evidence of any philosophic acceptance of this picture by the women of Britain; in fact, quite the opposite appears to be true. Once having expanded their sphere of activity, they do not intend to be relegated to second place again. The problem is fraught with significance politically, socially and economically.

In order to envisage only one facet of this situation, regard may be had to the mobility given to women by Government-controlled compulsory employment. Single women with no dependents have been directed into essential war-work at places distant from their normal habitat with the consequence that independence, initiative and new lines of thought and action have become their lot and have been inculcated into their very existence. For this reason, if for no other, the Government will undoubtedly have to recognize the violently altered feminine outlook and ability. As a direct result of war exigencies, the Government will have to create spheres of activity commensurate with the social revolution encompassed by the pressure of military requirements and the needs of a country geared to highest pitch to save its national life in a time of crisis without parallel in its history. In brief, the national outlook has been irretrievably altered and the earlier feminine place in society has definitely

changed and must give way to the status which they themselves have earned. The new order must include equality of opportunity for women who, by virtue of their wartime contribution and training, are now in a position to expect full recognition and whole-hearted co-operation.

It cannot be assumed that all this may be accomplished with no effort on the part either of women or of Government. Women will have to give concrete evidence of the lasting quality of their new concept of participation in world and national affairs, both economic and social, and the Government will have to lend a helping hand and exercise a benevolent and constructive attitude and influence.

Women are now represented on several of the official committees studying problems connected with post-war reconstruction. It should be noted that these women sit as experts on the subjects under review, not primarily or even necessarily as representatives of feminine interests.

Among the subjects of vital concern and importance claiming the attention of women are medical health and maternity service, nutrition, housing and town planning, education, and post-war position of women in labour and their conditions of employment. These are the problems of domestic reconstruction but women are also participating in international relief.

The war has brought the women of the United Kingdom into a high state of efficient organization and it would be a waste of a national resource trained and financed by the entire country, not to take advantage of its enormous potential.

